

## REPUBLICAN PLEDGES KEPT.

RECORD OF THE EXTRA SESSION OF  
CONGRESS.

EVERYTHING ELSE SUBORDINATED TO THE EXPEDITIOUS PASSAGE OF THE TARIFF BILL—  
SOME OTHER IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

Washington, July 25.—The extraordinary session

tion of Congress which has just closed was called by President McKinley two days after he took the oath of office on the steps of the Capitol. It met in response to his proclamation at noon of March 15. The Message transmitted by him to both houses on the opening day was brief. It explained the deficiencies in the revenues, reviewed the bond issues of the last Administration, and urged

The Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee of the preceding House had been at work throughout the short session which ended on March 4, giving hearings and preparing the bill which was to be submitted at the extra session. Three days after the session opened the Tariff bill was reported to the House by the Ways and Means Committee, and thirteen days later, March 31, 1897, it passed the House. It went to the Senate, was referred to the Committee on Finance, and the Republican members of that committee spent a month and three days in its consideration and in preparing amendments, which were submitted to the

in the Senate May 9, and exactly two months later, July 7, it passed the Senate with 87 amendments. The bill then went to conference where, after a ten days' struggle, on July 17 complete agreement was reached by which the Senate receded from 118 amendments and the House from 511. The others, 243 in number, were concurred in by the Senate. The conference report was adopted by the House on July 19 at the close of twelve hours of continuous debate. The report was taken up in the Senate on July 20 and adopted on July 24. The Tariff bill was signed by the President the same day.

**THE LEFT-OVER MONEY BILLS.**

Congress did not devote its attention entirely to the tariff, although it did subordinate everything else to this one measure. The four appropriation bills which failed on March 4 in the Senate would have compelled President McKim

necessity for a revision of the tariff had not been established. Those appropriation bills were the Sugar, Dry Goods, the Agricultural, the Indian and the General Deficiency. They were all passed and passed by the House on the identical form which they had at the time of their failure to pass. It was not until the time of the next enactment into law at the preceding Congress that they were amended in some important particulars by the Senate, and when they finally became laws contained more or less new legislation.

The interest in the deficiency bill carried a provision accepting the invitation to take part in the Panama Exposition in 1900, and appropriated \$25,000 to defray preliminary expenses. It also appropriated \$150,000 for a new immigration building at New-York, and \$100,000 for a new building destroyed by fire. By far the most important piece of new legislation in the bill, however, was that limiting the cost of armor-plate for the three new battleships to \$300 a ton. In case the Secretary of the Navy should find it impossible to purchase armor tracts for armor-plate at the price fixed, he was authorized to make a provision to take steps to

establish a Government factory of sufficient capacity to make the armor. The committee authority has been given to make a description and specifications of the land, building and machinery suitable for the factory, advertise for proposals and report to Congress at the next session.

In the Indian bill, after a severe struggle both houses, by the question of sectarian schools was decided by the following declaration of the policy of the Government: "That the Secretary of the Interior may make contracts with contractors, apportioning as may be necessary the amount so appropriated for among schools various examinations for the education of Indian pupils during the fiscal year 1898, but shall only make such contracts at places where no sectarian schools cannot be provided for such Indian children, and to an amount not exceeding 40 percent of the amount so used for the fiscal year 1895."

The question of opening to entry the rich glauconite deposits in the Uncompahgre Reservation in Utah was also compromised by reserving agricultural lands and the same were not been allotted to the Indians on April 1, 1898, but reserving to the United States title in all lands containing glauconite, asphalt or other like substances.

In the Sundry Civil bill the most important new provision was that suspending the order of the President to discontinue the leasing of public land for coal-mining and gravel settling aside about twenty million acres of land as forest reserve. The law also includes a general scheme of legislation for the government and protection of forest reservations of the country.

**THE POLICY OF THE HOUSE.**

The Republican leaders of the House decided at the opening of the session to pursue a policy of inaction in order to throw the responsibility

therefore the committees were not announced until the close of the session, and only such matters were considered. An appropriation of \$50,000 was made for the relief of American citizens in Cuba, at the solicitation of the President; \$200,000 was appropriated for the relief of the Mississippi flood sufferers; a resolution was passed authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to transport supplies contributed for the relief of the people of famine-stricken India, a \$50,000 appropriation for the entertainment of the delegates to the University of Chicago.

The only extensive piece of legislation enacted by the Congress, except the Tariff Act, was the laws to prevent collisions at sea and to put in force regulations to prevent collisions in certain harbors, rivers and on the waters of the United States. It will be interesting to the President to suspend discriminating tonnage dues on foreign vessels and commerce.

**WHAT WAS DONE BY THE SENATE.**

The Senate, not being confined as to the scope of its legislation, and which was not under Republican control, dealt with a number of important subjects, both in and out of executive session. One of these, which attracted world-wide attention, was the General Arbitration Treaty negotiated by President Cleveland with Great Britain. After a strenuous struggle, despite the gross misapprehension brought to bear by the press and commercial bodies throughout the country, the Senate rejected the treaty. The Hawaiian Treaty of Annexation negotiated by President McKinley was still under consideration when the session adjourned. In open session, a much debated, the Senate passed the Cuban belligerency resolution, a Bankruptcy bill, a bill for the relief of the Cuban exiles, and a few other bills of minor importance.

The following minor bills and joint resolutions were introduced, managing to escape objection from any member. Authorizing the Secretary of War to receive for instruction at the Military Academy at West Point, a cadet from the State of Texas to amend an act entitled "An act to provide for the entry of lands in Greer County, Okla., to give preference rights to settlers, and for other purposes," approved August 1, 1890, by appropriating \$10,000 not expended for the relief of the Mississippi River flood sufferers to the flood sufferers at El Paso, Tex.; and for the relief of the Trans-Mississippi River flood sufferers, to be held in America, in 1898, to bring to the United States foreign laborers for the purpose of preparing for and making ready to proceed for the relief of the sufferers of dry-dock No. 3, at the New-York Navy Yard; making appropriation for the improvement of the Mississippi River.

the mouth of the Ohio River; to supply deficiencies in appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897; bills authorizing the construction of bridges across the Pearl River, Mississippi, the St. Louis River between Minnesota and Wisconsin, and the Clinch River, Tennessee.